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Bangalore Mirror ON SATURDAY

TEMP Max 37 | Min 24 | Humidity 70% Partly cloudy sky Sensex 78,493 | Nifty 24,353 | Gold 1,54,200 | Silver 2,65,000 | Dollar 92.92 | Euro 109.31 | GBP 125.27

CITY / PAGE 2

EXAM FEVER

Schools demand grace marks to protect students from fallout of last-minute change in evaluation pattern of SSLC third language papers

CITY / PAGE 8

NO CHILD'S PLAY

Amid festive rush, officials on high alert to prevent spike in child marriages, a practice that continues to surface during auspicious occasions

With the loss of large trees that support nest cavities and fruiting canopy trees that White-Cheeked Barbets feed from, Bengaluru may end up risking loss of its most persistent soundtrack of summer

CALL OF THE BARBET

Researchers find the birds return to same cavity year after year during nesting period

Iffath Fathima
@timesofindia.com

TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

As summer advances in Bengaluru, a familiar "kutro kutro" call echoes through neighbourhoods, marking the onset of the White-cheeked Barbet's breeding season. While the sound is a seasonal constant for many residents, it also signals a critical period when these birds face mounting challenges in an increasingly urban landscape.

For many Bengalureans, the White-cheeked Barbet's repetitive call is one of the most familiar sounds of summer. Its annual breeding season typically extends from December to July, with nesting activity peaking in April and May, when the birds become especially vocal and visible across the city.

Subiksha Venkatesh, Lead Wildlife Rehabilitator, told Bangalore Mirror, "Behind that familiar soundtrack lies an intense breeding cycle that depends on two things Bengaluru is steadily losing: large trees that can support nest cavities, and fruiting canopy trees that provide dependable foraging through the season."

> **"One of the most concerning trends we see during this time is injuries related to habitat disturbance and urban structures. From tree cutting to window collisions, many of these incidents are preventable with greater awareness and small changes in how we manage our spaces**
> —Ashritha Carlo, senior wildlife veterinarian

She explained that White-cheeked Barbets are primarily frugivorous, feeding heavily on figs and other fruiting trees, and they excavate their nests in trunks or vertical branches rather than building them from twigs and grass.

At Avian and Reptile Rehabilitation Centre (ARRC), researchers have been monitoring

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8 »

UNFAIR PRICE SHOPS

Civil supplies officials accused of taking bribes, renewing licences without verifying documents; probe ordered

Y Maheswara Reddy
c-y.reddy@timesofindia.com

TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

Despite the state government spending thousands of crores of rupees to provide rice for below poverty line (BPL) families free of cost, rampant corruption in the food and civil supplies department and black-marketing of rice by greedy fair price shop owners are playing spoilsport.

It is alleged that food and civil supplies officials are renewing licences of fair price shops without verifying the documents. The licence of a fair price shop has to be renewed once every five years. As per the norms, one fair price shop in urban areas should provide service to around 800 ration card holders. Having a minimum of 800 ration cards is a must for a fair price shop. If there are fewer than 800 ration cards, it is a loss to the fair price shop owner.

For example, the food and supplies officials renewed a fair price shop that has only 310 ration cards, which is against the norms and also not viable for the fair price shop owner. The owner has to pay a

CONTINUED ON PAGE 12 »

THINGS TO DO

01 Unwind on the block

SOCIAL and BOSS Burger bring the BOSS Block Party with live BOSS Burger counters in a relaxed, sundowner-style setting that blends food, drinks, games, and music into one easygoing block-party experience. **Where: Koramangala SOCIAL; When: April 19, 2 pm**

02 Cocoa chronicles

Amay Dessert Studio presents a chocolate tasting experience where guests can explore flavour, texture, and storytelling while sampling a curated selection that highlights the nuances of cocoa, the craft behind each piece, and the stories connected to them. **Where: Atta Galatta, Indiranagar; When: April 19, 1 pm**

03 Soulful synergy

Rudraksha Live Entertainment Pvt Ltd presents Jazbaa, a concert featuring Vishal and Rekha Bhardwaj — a powerhouse duo in Indian music and cinema, known for their deeply moving collaborations and individual brilliance. **Where: Phoenix Marketcity; When: May 30, 7 pm**

04 Chapters ahead

Atta Galatta is presenting an Indie Authors Social, focusing on the challenges faced by independent writers, offering opportunities to connect, set 1–3 year goals, and collaborate, aiming to support authors in shaping their creative journeys. **Where: Atta Galatta, Indiranagar; When: April 19, 11 am**

05 Divine dance

Rasanubhava is a classical dance festival that celebrates the journey from Rasa (emotion) to Bhava (expression), bringing together extraordinary artists and the timeless traditions of Indian performing arts on one stage. **Where: Chowdiah Memorial Hall, Malleshwaram; When: April 25, 5 pm**

Schools seek grace marks as SSLC change sparks anxiety

Students prepared for pass/fail third language exams abruptly shifted to marks-based evaluation, prompting school associations to seek grace marks as supportive measure

Sridhar Vivan
sridhar.vivan
@timesofindia.com
TWEETS @sridharvMirror

Many say sudden changes during exam season may affect students' preparation (File photo)

A sudden shift in the evaluation pattern of third language papers in the SSLC exams has triggered confusion across Karnataka, with school managements now firmly demanding grace marks to protect students from the fallout.

For most of the academic year, students were under the impression that the third language paper would follow a pass or fail system. With no clear weightage on marks, many treated the subject as less critical compared to core papers. However, just days before the examination, this understanding was upended when authorities indicated that the subject would instead be assessed through a grading system.

The situation took another turn when the Karnataka High Court directed the state to award numerical marks for third language subjects, bringing them in line with other papers. The decision, which came barely four days before the exam, meant that students who had prepared with a completely different expectation were suddenly facing a marks-based evaluation.

The impact has been immediate, with students reporting anxiety and confusion over how their performance will now be judged. In response, school associations have stepped in, calling for urgent corrective measures.

"We are asking the government to provide grace marks of around 8 marks. This is necessary because the confusion was not created by students," said D Shashi Kumar, General Secretary of the Associated Managements of Primary and Secondary Schools in Karnataka. He pointed out that the lack of clarity throughout the year had led to a widespread misunderstanding. "Students believed it would be only pass or fail. Then, just before the exam, it was said to be grading. Finally, it has come back to marks. This kind of back-and-forth has affected their preparation," Kumar said.

According to him, the consequences are now being felt on the ground. "Students who did not focus much on the subject are now under pressure. Some

School associations argue that sudden shift to numerical marks was compounded by absence of any formal, timely notification, stressing such changes should have been clearly conveyed at academic year's outset or during exam registration

are worried about failing, which should not happen because of a policy issue," he added. School bodies have also raised concerns about the absence of any formal, timely notification regarding the changes. They argue that such decisions should have been clearly communicated at the start of the academic year or at least during exam registration.

"This is not just about one exam. It is about fairness. Students have spent years studying their chosen language. They should not be put at a disadvantage because of last-minute decisions," Kumar said. Apart from grace marks, schools have urged the government to ensure that both regular and private candidates are treated fairly and that the third language scores do not adversely affect overall results.

Education experts say the episode highlights the need for consistency in policy decisions. Sudden changes, especially during exams, can create unnecessary stress and confusion. With pressure mounting, all eyes are now on the government's response. For students already navigating exam stress, the demand for grace marks is being seen not as a favour, but as a necessary correction to an avoidable situation.

Hospitals accused of overcharging patients, action initiated under KPME Act

Several private hospitals and clinics in the city have come under scrutiny for allegedly overcharging patients in violation of the Karnataka Private Medical Establishments (KPME) Act. As per the law, all private medical institutions must prominently display a detailed tariff list covering consultation fees, surgeries, X-rays, scans and other treatments at easily visible locations near the entrance, and are mandated to charge only as per the listed rates. However, complaints received by the Health Department indicate that many hospitals have either failed to display these rates or are collecting amounts higher than the prescribed charges. Authorities have begun acting on such complaints through the KPME Registration and Grievance Redressal Authority, imposing penalties and directing hospitals to refund excess charges to patients.

According to officials, more than 10 such cases have recently resulted in refunds to complainants. In one instance, a hospital in Rajajinagar was ordered to return 20 per cent of the billed amount, amounting to Rs 73,530, while another case involving a hospital in Nagarabhavi led to a refund of Rs 21,100. Similarly, a patient was awarded Rs 2.23 lakh as reimbursement from a hospital in Ittamadu, and Rs 30,000 was ordered to be refunded by a clinic in Indiranagar for overcharging in eye treatment.

— BMB

NGMA Bengaluru to celebrate living heritage

Bengaluru is set to celebrate World Heritage Day with a unique cultural showcase as the National Gallery of Modern Art Bengaluru, in collaboration with Heritage Beku, presents 'The Future of Heritage – Past Forward' on April 18. Hosted at the historic Manikyavelu Mansion on Palace Road, the event seeks to reframe heritage as a dynamic and evolving part of the city's identity rather than something confined to the past. Beginning at 3.30 pm, the programme brings together conversations, fashion, and immersive experiences aimed at engaging citizens with Bengaluru's cultural legacy. A key highlight is a panel discussion titled 'The Future of Heritage' featuring prominent voices such as Uma Mahadevan, Prakash Belawadi, and Ramjee Chandran. The session, moderated by Priya Chetty Rajagopal, will explore how heritage continues to shape urban spaces, communities, and identities in a rapidly changing city.

Adding a visual and cultural dimension to the event, noted stylist Prasad Bidapa will present a Karnataka Heritage Textiles fashion showcase, highlighting the richness of the state's weaving traditions. This will be followed by a conversation with Pavitra Mudayya, offering insights into preserving textile heritage. As the evening unfolds, an interactive walkthrough titled 'Still Here – Why Heritage Matters Today' curated by Masons Ink, will invite participants to experience Bengaluru's history in a more tactile and engaging manner.

Open to the public, the event reflects Heritage Beku's continued efforts to promote awareness. — BMB

PhysicsWallah students score high in exams

PhysicsWallah (PW) reported that several of its students scored high marks in the CBSE Class 10 Board Examinations 2026, including some who secured 100 per cent. Students who scored 100 per cent include Vaibhav Arora from Fazilka, Punjab, Amolik Pandita from Ahmedabad, Gujarat, and Ayusman Mohapatra from Bhubaneswar, Odisha. PW Vidyapeeth centres in Bengaluru held a felicitation event for students from the city who scored well in the exams. Among them were Shipra Kumari, who scored 98.6 per cent, and Soham Das, who scored 98.8 per cent. Alakh Pandey, Founder and CEO of PhysicsWallah, said the company acknowledges the effort of students who appeared for the exams and congratulated those who managed to secure high marks.

— BMB

CRIME FILES

Police nab phone thief

Bagaluru police have seized six mobile phones valued at Rs 2.3 lakh and arrested one person in connection with the theft.

According to the official police report, the complainant, employed at a private limited company's warehouse, was conducting an internal audit when four mobile phones were found missing.

On checking CCTV footage, the auditor identified a worker associated with Amazon as the suspect, leading to a police complaint. Following standard enquiries, police traced the accused's location and apprehended him near Vinayaka Nagar, Yelahanka.

During interrogation, the man confessed to stealing four mobile phones during the audit and admitted to having stolen two more earlier, which had gone undetected. On the same day, the accused was served notice at the police station and released, as further investigation is underway. **–BMB**

Drugs worth ₹38 cr destroyed

The Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) conducted a drug disposal drive on Friday, where a total of 128.75 kg of seized contraband, including ganja, hydroponic ganja, cocaine, methamphetamine, MDMA, and THC, was destroyed through incineration. The estimated street value of the disposed drugs is Rs 38 crore, linked to 13 cases, as part of its ongoing efforts to curb narcotics circulation.

The drugs were incinerated at a certified facility in Hosakote in an eco-friendly manner. This marks the second such drive in 2026. Earlier, on February 5, around 1,607 kg of drugs worth Rs 11 crore were destroyed. With this, the NCB has disposed of a total of 1,735 kg of drugs worth Rs 49 crore this year.

The operation was carried out in accordance with Section 52A of the NDPS Act, 1985, and guidelines issued by the Supreme Court. The destruction was overseen by the Regional Drug Disposal Committee (RDDC), chaired by IPS officer Sachin Ghorpade, Zonal Director of NCB Bengaluru. Other officials present included DCP (Crime-2) Raja Imam Kasim P and Assistant Director Aravind MR. Representatives from the State Pollution Control Board monitored the process. **–BMB**

Man held for stealing valuables from PGs

Several residents of a paying guest (PG) accommodation in Electronic City Phase 2 discovered that their laptops and mobile phones were missing from their rooms in the early hours of April 12. The incident prompted police intervention, with a case registered at Parappana Agrahara Police Station.

According to the residents, they suspected an unidentified intruder had entered the premises around 2 am while they were asleep, stealing the devices left on tables inside their rooms.

Following extensive inquiries, investigators traced the suspect and apprehended him near Hosur Bus Stand in Tamil Nadu on the evening of April 14. From his possession, police recovered five laptops and five mobile phones, all believed to have been stolen from the PG.

During sustained interrogation, the accused revealed that he and his associate would target paying guest accommodations where gates and room doors were left unlocked, stealing valuables from unsuspecting residents.

He further confessed to stealing three two-wheelers from houses near metro stations in NT Sandra, Konappana Agrahara, and Silicon Town.

Acting on this information, police recovered three stolen two-wheelers parked in an open space at Huskur Fruit Market, along with five laptops and five mobile phones on April 15. The total recovery is valued at Rs 6 lakh.

The accused was produced before court the same day and has since been remanded to judicial custody. Police are continuing efforts to trace the absconding accomplice. **–BMB**

Man caught selling IPL tickets illegally

The Bengaluru City Police have apprehended a 49-year-old catering staff member for allegedly black-marketing Indian Premier League tickets during matches at the M Chinnaswamy Stadium.

The accused, identified as Chandrashekar P, employed with Sri Lakshmi Caterers operating inside the stadium, was apprehended by the Central Crime Branch (CCB) Special Enquiry Wing. Police said they received credible information during the April 15 match between Royal Challengers Bengaluru and Lucknow Super Giants about tickets being sold at inflated prices.

Acting on the tip-off, officers questioned the suspect and uncovered the illegal resale operation. Probe revealed that tickets were procured through Ticketgenie in the names of Swastik Heavy Engineering and Industrial Automation Consultant Company and Dharani Computers. These tickets were later diverted and sold at higher rates to the public.

Further investigations revealed that 100 tickets for the April 15 match were procured under the names of two companies and later sold in black.

Chandrashekar has been taken into custody, and efforts are on to identify others involved in the racket. **–BMB**

Drunken driver let loose on test drive

A case of negligence has come to light under Mahadevapura traffic police limits, where a drunk man was allegedly allowed to take a car for a test drive from a Mahindra showroom, leading to a serious accident that damaged multiple vehicles and injured a pedestrian.

The incident occurred at a Mahindra showroom located in Vigneshwara Nagar on April 12 around 6.20 pm. According to police, showroom staff permitted a man, identified as Abhilash, to test drive a vehicle despite him being under the influence of alcohol. During the drive, Abhilash reportedly lost control and rammed into four vehicles on the road.

On the day of the incident, he and four others had gone to a godown to bring back vehicles. Police clarified that the company had not permitted him to consume alcohol or drive under the influence. Abhilash has admitted to his mistake, officials added.

In the mishap, a pedestrian identified as Ramesh (31) sustained a fractured right leg and was rushed to a nearby private hospital, where he is currently undergoing treatment. Police officials later seized the damaged vehicles.

An FIR has been registered at the Mahadevapura Traffic Police Station against Abhilash. He was subsequently taken into custody, and after completing the arrest formalities, he was released on station bail. **–BMB**

7-year-old traced within hours after going missing

Panic struck residents of Ramanshree Nagar, Gottigere, when a 7-year-old boy, Sandom Joseph, went missing from his house around 5.19 pm. The family immediately called the emergency helpline to report the incident.

Responding to the alert from Namma112, Hoysala 204 from Hulimavu Police Station reached the spot within 12 minutes and launched extensive searches in the surrounding areas, following which the child was traced nearly 4 km away. After ensuring his safety, officials reunited him with his parents. **–BMB**

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Four-way plan, three-way reality

Four-bin rule kicks in, yet Bengaluru clings to outdated segregation, exposing gaps in policy rollout; preparedness, awareness and enforcement failures persist in the city

| Sridhar Vivan
sridhar.vivan@timesofindia.com
TWEETS @sridharvMirror

Bengaluru continues to follow its old three-way waste segregation system despite the Union Government's revised Solid Waste Management Rules, 2026, mandating a four-tier segregation model that came into effect on April 1. The new framework, introduced by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change in January through amendments to earlier rules, requires waste to be classified into wet waste, dry waste, sanitary waste and domestic hazardous waste. However, in the absence of formal by-laws and implementation mechanisms, the city has not transitioned to the updated system.

Under the revised norms, waste must be segregated using colour-coded bins: green for wet waste such as food scraps and organic matter; blue for recyclable dry waste like plastic, paper and metal; red for sanitary waste, including nappies and sanitary pads, and black for hazardous items such as paint cans, bulbs and expired medicines. The rules also classify bulk waste generators, including apartments and institutions producing over 100 kg of waste daily, under stricter compliance requirements. Despite this, civic workers in Bengaluru continue to collect waste in the conventional three categories, and there has been little effort from authorities or waste management agencies to raise public awareness of the four-way segregation system.

Bangalore Mirror

Tender for daily segregation, management, and disposal of fourth waste category under Solid Waste Management Rules not yet been finalised; authorities plan sanitisation programme for waste collectors before kicking new system off

4 MINUS 1: BIN THERE, DONE THAT

Segregation of dry, wet and sanitary is being done, 'special care' not yet started

As Bangalore Mirror reported on April 8, four-bin system remains on paper, city sticks to three-way segregation

"Forget four-way segregation, in many areas, even two-way collection is not happening properly. BBMP workers are supposed to come in separate shifts for wet and dry waste, but on several days only one type gets picked up, or sometimes none at all. When basic collection itself is inconsistent, it is hard to imagine how four-way segregation will work on the ground," said Sunitha Chandru, a resident of Bhuvaneshwari Nagar.

Residents largely remain unaware of the change and continue with the existing system. In some apartment complexes where residents have attempted to follow the new guidelines, there have been complaints that waste collectors are refusing to accept segregated waste in four categories, citing a lack of operational clarity. Experts point out that while the Centre has introduced the rules, implementation at the city level requires notification by the State Government or incorporation into the Greater Bengaluru Authority's by-laws, which are yet to be finalised.

Solid waste management experts say that transitioning to the new system will require at least six months of groundwork, including infrastructure changes such as introducing a fourth bin, training sanitation workers and building awareness among citizens. They stress that educating waste collectors is as important as informing residents to ensure seamless adoption. A meeting scheduled for April 18 aims to sensitise apartment associations, officials and volunteers to the revised rules and promote scientific waste management practices.

Residents confused, collectors resist change as new waste norms stall, missing by-laws, tenders and training leave sustainability push struggling for momentum in growing metropolis

Officials admit that tenders and operational frameworks for daily segregation, collection and disposal under the new rules are still under preparation. Until these are finalised, Bengaluru is likely to continue with its existing waste management system, delaying a shift that is seen as crucial for improving environmental sustainability in the rapidly growing city.

April fools' turns April greens

Activists turn April Fools' into eco mission, planting saplings across lakes, creating shaded corridors long before tunnel road plans surfaced

| Y Maheswara Reddy
c-y.reddy@timesofindia.com
TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

The state government announced plans to construct a tunnel road last year, but lake activists had envisioned green tunnels of trees at various lakes in East Bengaluru more than a decade ago. While many people were busy searching for the best ideas for April Fools' Day, lake activists in and around Krishnarajapuram chose to celebrate it as 'April Cool Day' by planting saplings along various lake bunds. It all began on April 1, 2011, when a few environmentalists and residents, led by lake activist Balaji Raghotham, decided to plant saplings along the pathways of Seegehalli Lake, Battarahalli Lake, Hoodi Lake, and Gangashetty Lake in East Bengaluru.

"Our objective was to ensure sufficient green cover at these lakes. I am very happy to see those saplings grow into trees, providing much-needed shade for walkers, especially those who arrive later in the morning, around 9 am or 10 am. These trees not only provide green cover and oxygen but also serve as a visual treat for visitors," said Balaji Raghotham. It was not easy for the volunteers to look after the saplings over the years. With no fencing at most lakes, the saplings were vulnerable to damage from stray cattle and miscreants. Volunteers had to run from pillar to post to address fencing issues. "On some occasions, volunteers and walkers brought water in cans from home to water the saplings," he added.

Grassroots volunteers nurtured fragile plants despite grazing threats, water shortages, and fencing struggles, transforming lake peripheries into thriving green spaces enjoyed by morning visitors today

Appreciating the volunteers for initiating April Cool Day more than a decade ago, Rama Rao, a resident of Seegehalli, said the saplings had grown into trees. "These trees provide cool shade for walkers. I am very happy to visit the lake. I hope the volunteers plant more saplings and care for them until they mature," he said.

Stating that more saplings need to be planted at Gangashetty Lake, Sheshappa HB, a volunteer there, said that saplings were planted three years ago and efforts are ongoing to water them. "Some of the saplings planted more than a decade ago near the taluk office have grown into trees. At present, we are maintaining the newer saplings," he said. Radhakrishna Reddy, a lake activist from Hoodi, said Hoodi Lake is one of the lakes in East Bengaluru with the maximum tree cover. "The BBMP Forest Department planted hundreds of saplings more than four years ago, but many did not survive. We planted a few hundred saplings over the past three years and are taking measures to water them," he said. Welcoming the efforts of lake activists, Shruthi Pise, a resident, said she wished to associate with volunteers at Kithaganur Lake. "I am ready to participate in planting saplings around the lake. Many people visit it for walks in the morning and evening," she said.

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Footpath grab
Cambridge Road

Footpath near SBI Bank on Cambridge Road encroached upon by vendors, forcing pedestrians onto the road.

Drainage woes
Palmgrove Road

Water stagnation on Palmgrove Road due to a lack of proper drainage following white-topping work.

Repair chaos
Hesaraghatta Main Road

Improperly restored stretch between Sattva Laurel Heights and D-Mart on Hesaraghatta Main Road, causing inconvenience.

MLA Vinay Kulkarni gets life term for murder

A Bengaluru special court on Friday sentenced Congress MLA Vinay Kulkarni and 15 others to life imprisonment in the 2016 murder of BJP leader Yogeshgouda Goudar in Dharwad.

The court had earlier convicted Kulkarni and the co-accused on charges including criminal conspiracy and murder, holding that Goudar was killed by hired assailants at a gym. The case was transferred to the CBI in 2019, which later named Kulkarni as the main conspirator, alleging he saw the victim as a political rival.

Of the 17 convicted, 16 were given life terms for murder and conspiracy, while a police officer was sentenced to seven years for destroying evidence.

The court also imposed fines totalling around Rs 12.5 lakh and awarded Rs 16 lakh compensation to the victim's family. Kulkarni, who had earlier secured bail, now faces possible disqualification as an MLA following the conviction.

–BMB

Campaign lauds Cabinet nod to Rohith Bill

The Karnataka Cabinet's approval of the Rohith Bill has been welcomed by the Campaign for Rohith Act, which described the move as a major step toward addressing institutional discrimination in educational spaces.

In a statement issued after the Cabinet decision on April 16, the Campaign said it was "very happy and grateful" that the government had cleared the Bill, adding that it was "even more delighted" that the final version retains most elements of the people's draft prepared through consultations with stakeholders.

The group noted that the draft had been refined through discussions with the government and said the outcome reflects a collaborative effort. It termed the decision a "political action to enable members of the SC/ST communities to more fully participate in knowledge production with their dignities intact."

At the same time, the Campaign flagged departures from its original recommendations. It pointed out that it had proposed a provision allowing individuals facing institutional discrimination to directly approach the High Court, arguing that such issues often involve complex questions of interpretation. The Campaign said the Bill's approval during Dalit History Month, just days after Ambedkar Jayanti, signals the government's intent to fulfil its duty in protecting the educational interests of marginalised communities.

–BMB

IN HIGH COURT

Blank cheque claim fails to cash in

Woman's story of fabricated loan amount on blank cheque unsupported by evidence, says court while maintaining trial court's conviction

Bangalore Mirror Bureau
mybangaloremirror
@timesofindia.com

TWEETS @BangaloreMirror

The Karnataka High Court has upheld the conviction of a school teacher in a cheque bounce case, ruling that her claim of misuse of a blank cheque was unsupported and lacked legal merit.

The case stemmed from a complaint by a man who alleged that the teacher had borrowed Rs 7 lakh from him and issued a cheque to repay the amount. The cheque was later dishonoured due to insufficient funds, prompting proceedings under Section 138 of the Negotiable Instruments Act.

A trial court had earlier found the teacher guilty and directed her to pay more than Rs 8 lakh as compensation. She challenged this order before the High Court, contending that she had only borrowed Rs 1 lakh and that the complainant had filled in a higher amount on a blank cheque she had signed.

Dismissing this argument, the High Court observed that the teacher had failed to produce any convincing evidence to support her version. The court noted that she did not initiate any legal action over the alleged misuse of the cheque and had not effectively responded to the statutory notice issued prior to the case.

It further pointed out that neither the teacher nor her witnesses were able to substantiate the claim that the loan amount was only Rs 1 lakh. In the absence of credible evidence, the court found no grounds to interfere with the findings of the lower courts.

HC notes petitioner's failure to produce evidence for claims and lack of response over alleged misuse of cheque

Proceedings halted against Ashutosh Hegde

The Karnataka High Court has stayed criminal proceedings against Ashutosh Hegde, son of former BJP MP Ananthkumar Hegde, in connection with a road rage incident reported near Nelamangala.

The case arose from an alleged altercation on the Bengaluru–Pune National Highway, where a group travelling in a car claimed they were assaulted following a dispute over overtaking. Although Ashutosh Hegde was not named in the initial FIR, his name was later included in the charge sheet.

Hearing his petition, the High Court noted that there were no specific allegations or material directly linking him to the incident. Taking this into account, the court granted interim relief by staying further proceedings against him.

The matter was heard by a bench led by Justice Sunil Dutt Yadav, who observed that the continuation of proceedings against Hegde, in the absence of clear evidence, required reconsideration. With the High Court's order, proceedings against Ashutosh Hegde will remain on hold until further orders.

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LAXMI BHUMAR 587 (97.83%)
PAVITRA SHIROL 581 (96.83%)
SUNIDHI NADAKARNI 580 (96.67%)
ವಿಜ್ಞಾನ ವಿಭಾಗ ಫಲಿತಾಂಶ – 2026
VAISHNAVI PUJAR 592 (98.67%)
DEEPA KOKATANUR 591 (98.50%)
MANIKANTH VAGGAPPAGOL 589 (98.17%)
SPOORTI PAWAR 589 (98.17%)
SHRADDHA MADABHAVI 586-(97.67%)
PRANAVI CHULAKI 585 (97.50%)
POOJA NAIK 584 (97.33%)
VIVEKANAND KARADI 583 (97.17%)
SUSHMA ANAVAL 581 (96.83%)
LAXMI PAGAD 581 (96.83%)
VITTHAL DALAWAI 580 (96.67%)
BASAVARAJ SHETTENNAVAR 579 (96.50%)
PRIYA BADASAL 579 (96.50%)
BHAGYASHREE KOLUR 578 (96.33%)
VIRESH HALALLI 578 (96.33%)
RAJLAXMI BARLI 575 - (95.83%)
SUSHMITA SHIRAGANNAVAR 575 (95.83%)
VARSHA HIREMATH 575 (95.83%)
SUSHMITA HAVADI 574 (95.67%)
SHRADDHA NIMBALKAR 574 (95.67%)
SPOOORTI UDAPUDI 574 (95.67%)
SHIVARAJGOUDA PATIL 574 (95.67%)
SHANUR TIPPANNAVAR 574 (95.67%)
SOURABH MATIGAR 574 (95.67%)
SHIDLINGAYYA MATHAPATI 573 (95.50%)
SHRAVANKUMAR MAREGUDDI 573 (95.50%)
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RAMAN VARMA 579 (96.50 %)
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MUSADIQA MANIYAR 576 (96.00%)
AISHWARYA RAYABAG 576 (96%)
MANOJ SABAKALE 574 (95.67%)
MISBHA MUDHOL 573 (95.50%)
PREETI PUJERI 573 (95.50%)
SHAMBHU HOSUR 572 (95.33%)
SHRAVANI NAMANNA 571 (95.17%)
TANVI NAIK 570 (95.00%)
APOORVA JAVALAGI 569 (94.83%)
IFAT MANIYAR 568 (94.67%)
ADITI HIREMATH 566 (94.33%)
PALAK RATHOD 565 (94.17%)
MUTTAPPA NARAGATTI 565 94.17%
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EKANT SHIRDONI 562 (93.67%)
SUBHASGOUDA PATIL 560 (93.33%)
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SHRAVANKUMAR MAREGUDDI
SHREYAS SAVALAGI
SPOORTI PAWAR
MEENAKSHI IMAGOUDAR
NANDISH RAGATI
PRANAVI CHULAKI
VAISHNAVI PUJAR
MANIKANT SURYVANSHI
IRANAGAMMA
NAVEEN ALADAL
UMEJA PENDARI
SANJAY KOPPAD
BASAVARAJ SHETTINAVAR
LAXMI PAGAD
RAJALAXMI BARALI
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CHANDRIKA NYAMGOUDA Subbayya Institute of medical college shivamogga
MALLIKARJUN NANDIKOL Basaveshwar medical college Chitradurga
VARSHINI HAGEDAL KIMS Hubli
SUDHANVA DESHPANDE S.Nijalingappa medical College Bagalkot
SWATI DESHPANDE Basaveshwar Medical College Chitradurga
PALLAVI SHINDE Subbayya Institute of Medical College Shivamogga
BHAGYASHREE PASODI S R PATIL MEDICAL COLLEGE, BILAGI
S.NIJALINGAPPA MEDICAL COLLEGE BAGALKOT
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ANUSHA BOLISHETTI KIMS KOPPAL
VIJAY KELAGERI KIMS BANGALORE
ANKIT BANGI SUBBAYYA INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL SCIENCE SHIVAMOGGA
DARSHAN DORLE KLE MEDICAL COLLEGE, HUBLI
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Sukruti Pujari S. NIJALINGAPPA MEDICAL COLLEGE BAGALKOT
MUDHOL Sidrameshwar Nagar 9071 9284 71,72
JAMAKHANDI Kunchanur Road, 9071 9284 91, 92
DHARWAD Opp. to SDM Engineering College Nuggikeri Road 9071 9284 79, 89
ATHANI Saigiri Kokatnur Road, 9071 9284 81, 88
SAI_NIKETAN PRE_SCHOOL ATHANI
SAI_NIKETAN PRE_SCHOOL MUDHOL
MUDHOL Palace Road, 9071 9284 75,7677

Doddaballapur gains traction as investment magnet fast

Doddaballapur, located close to North Bengaluru, is fast gaining ground as a profitable real estate destination, with strong demand for premium residential sites. Homebuyers looking to move away from the city's congestion, traffic and pollution are increasingly investing in quieter, greener surroundings on the outskirts. Recognised under the Central Government's Smart City development programme, Doddaballapur is poised for significant growth, making current investments potentially rewarding.

"The region hosts an 800-acre KIADB industrial area, a proposed 12,000-acre Information Technology Investment Region, SEZs and upcoming tech parks, all of which are expected to boost economic activity and land value. With pleasant weather, abundant greenery and organised layouts, the town is drawing both investors and end users seeking modern amenities within their budget," said Bore Gowda, a realtor.

PICTURE FOR REPRESENTATION ONLY

Doddaballapur's proximity to major employment corridors and tourism hotspots adds to its appeal. Land parcels near the ITIR zone and the proposed knowledge and innovation clusters are witnessing steady appreciation.

"Tourist attractions such as Ghati Subramanya Temple, Makali Durga and Nandi Hills have made the region popular for weekend getaways, enhancing its residential potential. Connectivity is another strong advantage, with good railway access and the Kempegowda International Airport about 22 kilometres away. State Highway 09 ensures seamless road links to Bengaluru and neighbouring districts, positioning Doddaballapur as a promising real estate growth corridor in North Bengaluru," added Gowda. **–BMB**

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Experience-first retail reshapes Bengaluru shopping spaces

Bengaluru is emerging as a key market in India's changing retail real estate landscape, with strong participation from anchor-driven segments such as hypermarkets and family entertainment centres, reflecting the city's young and tech-oriented consumer base.

According to ANAROCK Retail's RELEAP 2026 report, retail absorption across India's top seven cities stood at 4.3 million sq. ft. in the second half of 2025, indicating steady leasing momentum despite a dynamic market environment. Demand was led by apparel, followed by entertainment, supermarkets and food and beverage, signalling a clear shift towards experience-focused retail spaces. **–BMB**

Akshaya Tritiya sparks surge in property buying

PICTURE FOR REPRESENTATION ONLY

As Akshaya Tritiya approaches, real estate experts say the festival continues to be one of the most favourable times for property investment, driven by both cultural belief and practical benefits offered during the period. Traditionally associated with prosperity and new beginnings, the day is considered ideal for making long-term financial commitments such as buying land or a home.

Developers and property consultants note that this sentiment translates into increased enquiries and bookings every year.

"Akshaya Tritiya has always been a strong trigger for real estate decisions. Many buyers who have been planning purchases choose this day to finalise deals," said Anil Reddy, a Bengaluru-based real estate consultant. "It is not just about belief, but also about timing, as developers roll out attractive offers."

Industry players say festive discounts, flexible payment plans and reduced booking amounts make this period financially appealing. For first-time homebuyers, this mix of sentiment and savings often becomes the deciding factor.

"Developers introduce special schemes during this time, including waiver of certain charges or lower initial payments. This reduces the entry barrier for buyers," said Neethu S, a property advisor.

Experts also note that investing during this period aligns with long-term goals. "Real estate is a long-term asset, and starting that journey on an auspicious day adds emotional value for many families," Reddy added. **–BMB**

B'luru clears elevated corridors to ease growing traffic chaos

PICTURE FOR REPRESENTATION ONLY

In a major push to ease traffic congestion and improve urban mobility, the Karnataka Cabinet has granted administrative approval for 11 elevated corridor projects across five municipal zones in Bengaluru, along with a revised estimate for the Baiyappanahalli rotary flyover.

The large-scale infrastructure plan is expected to significantly reshape connectivity across key parts of the city while also giving a strong boost to the real estate sector. The Baiyappanahalli rotary flyover project, which earlier received tenders worth ₹380 crore, has now been revised to ₹436.44 crore.

Alongside this, the Cabinet has approved several strategically planned elevated corridors. These include a 0.5 km flyover at MEI Junction costing ₹52 crore, a 2 km grade separator connecting West of Chord Road to Outer Ring Road via Pipeline Road at ₹489 crore, and a 1.5 km flyover on Doddaballapur Road via Yelahanka at ₹142 crore.

Key junctions on Kanakapura Road, including Konanakunte Cross and Raghuvanahalli, will also get new flyovers costing ₹291 crore and ₹230 crore respectively.

Among the major projects are long elevated corridors such as the 5.2 km stretch from Sirsi Circle to Nayandahalli on Mysuru Road (₹810 crore), a 5.3 km corridor on Hosur Road via Adugodi and Anepalya junctions (₹716 crore), and a 5.2 km link from Old Madras Road to Electronic City passing through Indiranagar and Silk Board (₹1,300 crore).

The most ambitious project is a 28 km elevated corridor from Yeshwanthpur-Mathikere to KR Puram via IISc, Jayamahal and Ulsoor Lake, estimated at ₹4,621.45 crore. Another 18.5 km corridor from Ragigudda to Kanakapura Road via Talaghattapura has been cleared at ₹2,956.32 crore.

Urban development experts say these projects will directly impact Bengaluru's real estate market. Improved connectivity along the Outer Ring Road, North Bengaluru and growth corridors such as Electronic City and Kanakapura Road is likely to increase property demand and drive price appreciation. **–BMB**

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This festive season, child marriages in officials' radar

Enforcement teams mobilise ahead of Akshaya Tritiya to prevent secret ceremonies pushing vulnerable teenagers into early, unauthorised matrimonial ties

Sridhar Vivan
sridhar.vivan@timesofindia.com
TWEETS @sridharvMirror

Officials tighten monitoring, warn of strict punishment for facilitators, track school dropouts, deploy helplines, and credit technology-driven interventions for declining illegal practices in the state

While families across Bengaluru are busy shopping for gold, clothes and festive essentials ahead of Akshaya Tritiya, district authorities are working on a different kind of preparedness. Behind the festive rush, officials are on high alert to prevent a possible spike in child marriages, a practice that continues to surface during auspicious occasions.

Bengaluru Urban Deputy Commissioner G Jagadeesha has directed all concerned officials to take strict precautionary measures, with Akshaya Tritiya falling on April 20. "There is a higher likelihood of child marriage cases during such occasions. All Child Marriage Prohibition Officers must remain vigilant and act promptly," he said in an official communication.

Calling child marriage an age-old social evil, the administration has intensified monitoring across wards and departments, with the aim of making Bengaluru a child marriage-free district. Authorities have warned that any negligence in preventing such cases will result in direct accountability. "Officers who fail to act despite being appointed for this purpose will be held responsible," the Deputy Commissioner stated. Under the Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, 2006, any marriage involving a girl below 18 years or a boy below 21 years is considered illegal. Officials have also made it clear that legal action will not be limited to families alone. "Religious heads, priests, organisers of mass marriages, relatives, and anyone involved in facilitating such marriages will face punishment under the law," the statement noted. Special focus is being placed on vulnerable groups, particularly school dropouts, who are more likely to be pushed into early marriages. The School Education Department has been instructed to share data on children who have discontinued education, enabling targeted intervention.

Authorities have urged the public to play an active role in reporting suspected cases. Citizens can reach out to Childline 1098, the police helpline 112, or district child protection units across Bengaluru. Dedicated contact numbers have also been issued for different zones to ensure a quick response.

The intensified vigilance comes even as Karnataka reports a steady decline in child marriage cases over the past three years. According to data from the Department of Women and Child Development, cases dropped by 21.35 per cent, from 830 in 2023 to 804 in 2024, and further to 650 by December 2025. Prevention efforts have also shown progress. In 2023, out of 2,605 complaints, 1,775 child marriages were stopped. In 2024, authorities prevented 2,323 cases out of 3,127 complaints. By 2025, 2,394 child marriages were successfully averted out of 3,044 complaints, though 650 cases still took place.

Officials attribute this decline to coordinated action across departments, the training of over one lakh Child Marriage Prohibition Officers, and increased awareness about girls' education. "Technology has also played a key role. The Surakshini web portal has helped track and respond to cases more efficiently," an official said.

The government is now working on a next-generation version of the portal along with a mobile application, in coordination with Childline and C-DAC. "With stronger monitoring systems and public cooperation, we aim to bring the numbers down further," the official added.

April-May is peak nesting time in world of barbets

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

one barbet nest near the facility over the past three years, revealing remarkable nest-site fidelity. "The same cavity appears to have been used repeatedly, with both the male and female working together to fiercely defend their home from other cavity nesters such as mynas and squirrels," Venkatesh said.

Dr. Ashritha Carlo, senior wildlife veterinarian, stressed on the importance of nesting cavities. "In a city like Bengaluru, where tree cover is constantly under pressure, these nesting cavities are incredibly valuable. Barbets invest weeks in excavating them, and often return to the same site year after year," said Venkatesh. "Losing even a single tree during the breeding season can mean wiping out an entire nesting attempt."

In a case handled by ARRC a few years ago, an active barbet nest was lost during a tree-cutting operation. The team managed to retrieve the portion of the tree containing the nest cavity and placed it on a nearby terrace, hoping the parent birds would return. The effort paid off. The adults came back, resumed care of the nest, and successfully raised their chicks. The same salvaged cavity was later used again for a second clutch. The experts pointed out that such cases show both how adaptable these birds are and how easily their habitat can be disturbed. While the White-cheeked Barbet continues to live well in the city, the breeding season is when it is most at risk. This year alone, ARRC has rescued 50 barbets from different situations, highlighting the growing challenges they face in an increasingly urban environment. Carlo added, "One of the most concerning trends we see during this time is injuries related to habitat disturbance and urban structures. From tree cutting to window collisions, many of these incidents are preventable with greater awareness and small changes in how we manage our spaces."

At ARRC, when calls come in about trimming or cutting trees during the breeding months, the first effort is always to persuade people to postpone the work until the season has passed. "If pruning or felling cannot be avoided and the required permissions are in place, they are still urged to check carefully for active nests before any work begins. For cavity nesters such as barbets, the loss of a tree can mean the loss of a nesting site that may have taken weeks to excavate and may have been used across multiple seasons," said a researcher.

Venkatesh said, "One of the most serious but under-recognised threats during this period is collision with glass. As young barbets emerge from their nest cavities and begin exploring the world outside, they are often drawn to reflections of tree canopy and open sky on glass-fronted buildings. That inexperience can spell doom. The danger does not end with the impact itself. A young bird that survives a collision may end up stunned on the ground, disoriented and exposed to traffic, noise, free-roaming cats and dogs, and further injury. In a dense urban environment, even a few minutes of confusion can become life-threatening."

Simple measures citizens can take:

- Avoid trimming or cutting trees during peak breeding months
- Make windows bird-friendly using decals or visible markers
- Protect older and partially decaying trees that may have nest cavities
- If you find an injured bird or fallen chick, handle it as little as possible and keep it in a quiet, safe place
- Observe grounded fledglings from a distance first, as they may just need time to fly
- Wildlife rescue helpline: ARRC: 9449642222

However, Bengaluru still supports a good population of White-cheeked Barbets. Older neighbourhoods, avenue trees, and fruiting trees continue to provide them with spaces to nest and find food. Since they mainly eat fruits, barbets also help spread seeds, playing an important role in maintaining and growing the city's green cover.

No guide, no glide, trek rules take a hike

The Karnataka Forest Department (KFD) has laid down guidelines that will reshape trekking activities in forest areas.

This regulatory shift follows multiple missing persons cases on trekking routes in Karnataka over the past few weeks. The set of standard operating procedures (SOPs) issued by the Department applies to all registered and permitted trekking operations under KFD jurisdiction. As per the SOP, trekking without a guide will not be permitted under any circumstances, and at least one local nature guide will be mandatory for every 10 trekkers henceforth. The number of visitors on each trekking route has also been capped at 150 people per day, reduced from the earlier limit of 300.

Trekkers will now be required to register online before starting their trek. Even if only one person registers on a day, a guide will be provided.

Walkie-talkies equipped with GPS have been made mandatory for nature guides on all trekking routes. Trekkers will also be required to install a mobile application that includes the trekking route map. If any trekker strays from the designated path, the app will help to locate and assist them quickly.

Base camp infra

Before starting the trek, trekkers will receive a briefing at the base camp about the distance, duration, and trail conditions of the route. They will also be informed about safety measures, including what to do if they encounter wild animals.

Carrying noisy devices, bulky metal objects, weapons, or lighting campfires will not be permitted. Separate toilet facilities and drinking water arrangements will be provided for men and women at the base camp. Directional signs with arrows will be placed along the trekking path.

Guides' responsibilities

The SOP also mandates that nature guides stay with the group at all times and neither move too far ahead nor fall behind. A mandatory headcount of trekkers must be conducted at the base camp and at all rest points.

Every 30 minutes, guides will be required to communicate with the base camp using a walkie-talkie. They will be responsible for ensuring that all trekkers remain accounted for throughout the trek. If the guide fails to communicate within one hour of the start of the trek, base camp staff are required to contact the group.

Consent letters

Minors must submit a consent letter from parents or guardians before going on a trek. Senior citizens will be required to provide a medical or fitness certificate confirming that they are physically fit for trekking. — BMB

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BENGALURU SPEAKS

and gets heard on this page

STORY BEHIND THE PHOTO

NATURE'S SILENT TACTIC

Our reader shares a striking image of the Scarlet Flag flourishing in a backyard garden, its vivid red bracts unfolding with purpose and precision. Even before its tiny yellow flowers emerge, the plant draws pollinators through its bold colour and structure nature's calculated design at work, leaving nothing to chance.

The picture was clicked by reader **T Prakash**

If you have a picture and a story to share, send us the picture with your name and number at **mybangaloremirror@timesofindia.com**

H5N1 detected near city, authorities enforce strict containment measures

Health Minister Dinesh Gundu Rao urges calm as surveillance intensifies, thousands of poultry culled, and precautionary measures activated across affected zones

Minister for Health and Family Welfare Dinesh Gundu Rao has urged the public not to panic following the detection of the H5N1 avian influenza virus at a poultry training centre in Mattikere village near Hesaraghatta in north Bengaluru, while emphasising the need for caution and strict monitoring.

According to officials, the presence of H5N1 was confirmed on April 14 by the National Institute of High Security Animal Diseases (NIHSAD), Bhopal. Authorities immediately initiated containment measures as per protocol after the confirmation. "There is no need for fear as no human cases have been reported so far, but people must remain cautious and follow safety guidelines," the minister said. On April 16, rapid response teams from the state, district and public health departments visited the site and declared a 3 km radius around Mattikere village as an infected zone, while marking a 10 km surrounding area as a surveillance zone. As part of containment efforts, officials culled 7,444 chickens along with more than 14,000 eggs and 2,250 kg of poultry feed, and disposed of them scientifically under the supervision of the Animal Husbandry Department.

Ten staff members involved in the culling process have been quarantined and placed under medical observation, with preventive doses of Oseltamivir administered. Authorities have also declared the affected premises a restricted zone for one year. The Health Department has intensified surveillance in surrounding areas. Within the 3 km infected zone, officials are closely monitoring two villages with a population of 3,422. In the 3–10 km surveillance zone, 17 villages covering a population of 22,395 remain under watch. Health workers and ASHA staff have begun door-to-door visits to track fever symptoms over the next ten days. Hospitals have been instructed to report any suspected cases immediately. Primary health centres in Hesaraghatta and Sonnenahalli have stocked PPE kits, masks, antiviral drugs, viral transport media and throat swabs.

After bird flu confirmation, officials moved swiftly with culling, quarantine, and monitoring. Residents are reassured of safety, while health teams actively track symptoms and prevent any possible spread

Reassuring the public, the minister said, "The Health Department is fully prepared to handle any situation. People should avoid contact with sick or dead birds and report any unusual findings immediately." He added that properly cooked chicken and eggs remain safe for consumption and urged citizens to follow basic hygiene and safety precautions while the situation remains under close watch. **— BMB**

Authorities cull thousands of chickens as containment measures intensify following H5N1 detection

DID YOU KNOW?

Wall Street is struggling to value Elon Musk's SpaceX ahead of a potential IPO that could reach a staggering $1.75 trillion, forcing investors to rethink traditional valuation methods. Instead of comparing the company to aerospace peers like Boeing or telecom firms such as AT&T, some institutional investors are benchmarking it against high-growth, AI-driven firms like Palantir Technologies, GE Vernova, and Vertiv. This reflects the challenge of pricing a company with no clear public peers. Investors argue SpaceX's dual business launch services and Starlink satellite internet—targets massive long-term markets, justifying premium valuations. Starlink alone is projected to tap into a $1.6 trillion opportunity, far beyond legacy telecom models.
However, at roughly 110 times projected revenue, SpaceX appears expensive even compared to high-multiple firms like Palantir. Critics, including valuation expert Aswath Damodaran, warn that such pricing may rely more on optimism and investor sentiment than fundamentals. Ultimately, SpaceX's valuation debate highlights a broader shift: investors prioritising future growth narratives and "platform potential" over conventional financial benchmarks. **— Reuters**

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A plastic bottle on your tire might look random but here's why it's going viral

The Claim: One could avoid theft of one's automobile if one put a bottle filled with water on one of its wheels.
Fact: No factual basis to this statement.

Have you ever noticed an odd sight in a parking lot—a plastic bottle placed on top of a car's tire? This curious image has sparked numerous theories online, ranging from clever security hacks to warnings about theft or even unconventional car care practices. While these ideas may sound intriguing, the truth behind this trend is far more ordinary and less alarming than it appears.

The origin of this plastic bottle theory can be traced back to a viral post that circulated widely in 2021. The image showed a bottle positioned on a car wheel but offered no explanation, leaving viewers to speculate. As the image spread, people began attaching their own interpretations, turning a simple, unexplained visual into a topic of widespread discussion. However, there is no credible evidence supporting any of these claims.

One popular belief suggests that placing a bottle—sometimes filled with water—near a tire can prevent vehicle theft. This claim has been thoroughly debunked by fact-checking organisations, which confirm that such a method has no real impact on security. Similarly, official safety recommendations emphasise proven measures like locking doors, parking in well-lit areas, and using anti-theft devices. None of these guidelines involve placing objects near tires.

Another theory claims that a plastic bottle can help prevent tire damage, such as flat spotting, when a car is parked for long periods. Automotive experts dismiss this idea as well, noting that a lightweight object like a plastic bottle cannot influence tire pressure, weight distribution, or structural integrity in any meaningful way. There is also speculation that criminals might use a bottle to create a distraction, prompting drivers to exit their vehicles. While this idea might seem plausible in theory, there is no substantial evidence to suggest that such incidents are common or effective.

Ultimately, the presence of a plastic bottle on a car tire is more a product of internet curiosity than practical purpose. It highlights how easily misinformation can spread when images lack context. Instead of relying on viral myths, vehicle owners should focus on reliable practices such as regular tire maintenance, proper parking habits, and basic security precautions. These proven steps are far more effective in ensuring both safety and peace of mind. **— ET online**

Green smashes 79 as KKR post 180 that proves too little to stop Gujarat

Gujarat make most of Kolkata collapse

Gujarat Titans moved into complete control as Shubman Gill went into attacking mode, taking on Varun Chakravarthy in style during the team's chase after Kolkata Knight Riders posted 180 during the Indian Premier League (IPL) 2026 encounter at the Narendra Modi Stadium in Ahmedabad on Friday.

Kolkata would not have managed even that much if not for a superb recovery led by Cameron Green's 79 off 55 balls. But it was undone by a dramatic late-order collapse.

Despite Green's fine knock, laced with seven fours and four sixes, KKR lost their last six wickets for just 33 runs in the final phase of the innings. Kagiso Rabada was the pick of the bowlers for GT, returning figures of 3-33, while Mohammed Siraj and Prasidh Krishna played vital roles in stifling the KKR batters, though Ashok Sharma and Rashid Khan were expensive.

1. Gujarat Titans' captain Shubman Gill plays a shot during the match in Ahmedabad on Friday; **2.** Kolkata Knight Riders' Cameron Green plays a shot

KKR	GT
180 (20)	181/5 (19.4)

Pushed into bowling first after KKR elected to bat, Siraj struck in the very first over as skipper Ajinkya Rahane skewed an outswinger to mid-on and fell for a golden duck. Rabada then doubled the misery in the second over by having Angkrish Raghuvanshi nick behind to the keeper. When Tim Seifert (12) slapped a short delivery from Siraj straight to point, KKR were reeling at 32/3 in four overs.

KKR's recovery was initially sparked by Rovman Powell, who hit a cameo of 27 off 20 balls, including two massive sixes, shifting the pressure back onto the GT bowlers. His 55-run stand with Green, who timed the ball really well, steadied the ship before Ashok Sharma deceived him with a 107kph slower ball.

Green, who was struggling on 27 off 29 balls at one stage, suddenly found his groove in the 12th over by launching Rashid for a six and a four. He took a particular liking to the spinners, scoring 33 off just 18 balls against them. His 60-run partnership off 23 balls with Anukul Roy saw KKR gallop from 87/4 to 139/4 in the space of three overs.

However, the dismissal of Roy (9) by Prasidh Krishna in the 15th over triggered a sensational slide. Rinku Singh's poor run continued as he fell to Rabada, while Ramandeep Singh (17) holed out after a brief flurry of boundaries.

In a bizarre final stretch, Green, who had reached 75 off 44 balls, became a virtual spectator at the non-striker's end as wickets tumbled, with the seam-bowling all-rounder facing only two of them during that sequence. **–Agencies**

Today's battle

Royal Challengers Bengaluru
VS
Delhi Capitals
3.30 PM | Bengaluru

Sunrisers Hyderabad
VS
Chennai Super Kings
7.30 PM | Hyderabad

Parking restrictions, traffic arrangements in city today

Ahead of the IPL match on Saturday at M. Chinnaswamy Stadium, Bengaluru Traffic Police have imposed extensive parking restrictions and traffic arrangements across key central roads to ensure smooth movement. Traffic officials have advised the public to use BMTC buses and metro services to avoid congestion. As per the traffic police, parking has been prohibited on both sides of major stretches including Queens Road (Balekundri Circle to CTO Junction), MG Road (Anil Kumble Circle to Queens Circle and up to Anil Kumble Junction), Link Road (MG Road to Cubbon Road), Raj Bhavan Road, T Chowdaiah Road, Race Course Road, Central Street, and Cubbon Road (CTO Circle to Dickenson Road Junction). On Cubbon Road, between Kamaraj Road Junction and Dickenson Road Junction, only BMTC buses are allowed to park.

Restrictions are also in place on St. Mark's Road (Cash Pharmacy Junction to Anil Kumble Circle), Museum Road (MG Road to Ashirvadam Circle), Kasturba Road (Queens Circle to Hudson Circle), Mallya Hospital Road (Siddalingaiah Circle to RRM R Circle), Lavelle Road (Queens Circle to Vittal Mallya Road Junction), and Vittal Mallya Road (Siddalingaiah Circle to Bishop Cotton Girls' School). Parking inside Cubbon Park, including King Road, areas near Press Club, Bal Bhavan, and Fountain Road is strictly prohibited. Pick-up and drop-off points for Ola, Uber, and autos have been designated at BRV Ground (Gate No. 06) and Manekshaw Parade Ground (Gate No. 03).

Entry to the stadium will be through Gates E-1 to E-3 and E-18, E-19, E-22, E-23 (Cubbon Road), E-11 to E-17 (Link Road via Anil Kumble and BRV Circles), and E-05 and E-08 (Queens Road). Exit is permitted only via Gates E-09 and E-9A, while Gate E-10 is reserved for players and VIPs. Designated parking spaces have been arranged at St. Joseph's Indian High School Ground, St. Joseph's European School Ground, Freedom Park MLCP, Garuda Mall, Shivajinagar Bus Stand, UB City, and Kanteerava Stadium. **–BMB**

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Fee is Rs 250, but shop owners paid Rs 25-30,000

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

minimum of Rs 10,000 towards rent for the shop and around Rs 3,000 miscellaneous apart from Rs 10 per ration card per month to the food inspector. Finally, the fair price shop owner may get Rs 4,000 to Rs 5,000 per month. So, the meagre income for being fair may compel the fair price shop owner to become unfair.

It is quite shocking that fair price shops licenses are being renewed under Karnataka Essential Commodities Public Distribution System (Control) Order 1992 despite it being repealed in 2016.

According to audio records available with Bangalore Mirror, each of the fair price shop owners paid Rs 25,000 to Rs 30,000 and Rs 50,000 as against the specified fees of Rs 250. It is also alleged that food and civil supplies officials themselves filled up the applications for the renewal of licences on behalf of fair price shop owners.

It is also alleged that black marketing of rice is to such an extent that truck loads of rice goes straight to the black marketer from the warehouse of Food and Civil Supplies. There is a report of a food inspector certifying storing 225 quintals of rice in a 10x10 sq ft fair price shop.

Based on complaints, the Additional Director of Food and Civil Supplies Department has ordered an inquiry against Food Inspector Kemperaj for allegedly renewing the licences of around 100 fair price shops without verifying documents and inspecting the fair price shops. An enquiry committee was constituted on April 2, 2026 under Savita P, Joint Director, Food and Civil Supplies Department (West) to conduct an enquiry and submit the report.

Welcoming the inquiry, a fair price shop owner, on the condition of anonymity, said that it has become tough for fair price shop owners to maintain the shops due to rampant corruption. "The food and civil supplies officials collected money for renewing fair price shop licences. A few shop owners confessed to paying bribes to the officials. We have to pay bribes to the food inspector of the respective division every month," he said.

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personal

CHANGE OF NAME

I, Muddugangadhar Byra sandra Chennappa, S/o B C Chennappa, R/at Thirumala Nivasa, Thippenahalli Village & Post, Chikkaballapur, Karna taka-562103. I have changed my minor daughter name from SHREEYA MUDDUGAN GADHAR @ B M SHREEYA to SHREEYA BYRASANDRA MUDDUGANGADHAR, vide affidavit dt: 17-04-2026 before notary Natesh D, B.lore.

I, MANNU, Residing at FLAT 34026, SOBHA DREAM ACRES, PANATHUR MAIN ROAD, WING 34, 2 FLR, BALAGERE VILLAGE, BENGALURU-560087 have changed my name to MANNU OJHA vide affidavit dated: 17/04/2026 Before Notary K.V.Mani Bangalore.

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THE TIMES OF INDIA

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I, Neelesh Patel, s/o Purushottam Ratansi Patel, R/o No 13, 3rd Main 4th Cross Chinnanna Layout Kaval Byrasandra B'luru-560032 have changed my name to Neelesh P Patel for all Purposes.

I, RASMITARANI PRADHAN, W/o SURAJIT LIMA, R/O 13, Channatayappa Layout, MRJ Colony, Mathikere -560054. I have changed my name to RASMITARANI LIMA vide affidavit dated: 15/04/2026 Before Notary RAMACHANDRAPPA. C Bengaluru.

IN Army service records of my husband my name is mentioned as Jayashree Pujari where as and my actual correct name is Jayashree Kashappa Pujari W/o. Army No. 14688058L Rank Hav Kashappa Surendra Pujari C/o Surendra Pujari 19/1, Dhangar Galli, Nanadi, Belagavi, Karnataka, 591244. Affidavit No IN-KA32656890656073Y dated 13 April 2026

I PRERNA RADHAKRISHNAN W/o RAGHUNATH MAIKKARA aged about 41 years residing at D1904/05,Purva Palm Beach, Kyalasanahalli, Kothanur, B'luru-560077 wish to declare that my Father's and Mother's names are printed as LAKSHMIPURAM KUMARA RADHAKRISHNAN PILLAI and GOWRI PREMLATHA respectively in my passport which is incorrect. Instead, it has to be corrected to LAKSHMIPURAM KUMARA RADHAKRISHNA PILLAI and GOWRI PREMLATA respectively as per their KYC documents vide affidavit dtd:14/04/2026 sworn before notary Uday Kumar K, B'luru.

I R Uma D/O, Shashtry K S R R/o 179, 24th Cross , 6th Block Jayanagar have changed my name to Uma Nagaraj for all purposes vide affidavit dated 12.10.2001 before notary B.K.R Krishnamurthy(Bangalore)

I, KOMALA KUMARA A S R/ No 321 8th cross kerrangala kamalanagar near veerabhadreswara theater Basaveshwaranagar Bangalore 560079 Have changed my name to KOMALKUMAR A S for all Purposes.

I, VENKATESHA G, S/o Giddappa, Thyagadahalli village, Mandigere post, Kasaba Hobli, Nelamangala taluk, Bangalore rural District - 562123, have changed my name from VENKATESHA G to VENKATESH G, at Bengaluru for all purposes.

I, PRASANT KUMAR RADHAKRISHNAN S/O LAKSHMIPURAM KUMARA RADHAKRISHNA PILLAI aged about 44 years residing at Flat No.406, C-block, Gopalan Atlantis, ECC Road, Pattandur, Whitefield, B'luru-560066 wish to declare that my Father's name is printed as RADHAKRISHNAN PILLAI LAKSHMIPURAM KUMARAPILLAI in my passport which is incorrect. Instead, it has to be corrected to LAKSHMIPURAM KUMARA RADHAKRISHNA PILLAI as per his KYC documents vide affidavit dtd:14/04/2026 sworn before notary Uday Kumar K, B'luru

I, Anirudh Jagadeesh Kulkarni S/o Jagadeesh # 36, Shri pragaya bld, 6th Cross, Adarshnagar, Hindawadi, Tilakwadi, Belagavi City, 590011have changed my name to Anirudh Kulkarni for all purposes

I, MOHMAD SAQI R/O YAHYA MAHMOOD QHURESHI R/O NO 1 COLONEL HILL ROAD H K P ROAD, SHIVAJINAGAR, BENGALURU - 560051. HAVE CHNAGED MY NAME TO MOHAMMED SAQI FOR ALL PURPOSES.

I, Savitha Krishnamurthy W/o Krishnamurthy, residing at No. 121/26, 16th Main, 2nd Block, BSK, 1st Stage, Basavanagudi, Bangalore - 560050, I further declare that I have changed my name from Savitha Siddalingappa to Savitha Krishnamurthy vide Affidavit dated 16.04.2026, sworn before Notary M Rajendra, Bengaluru.

I, Mohd Zibreel Ahmad R/o 53/120 Room No 102 Pavan Nivas, GS palya Main Rd Electronic City B'lore-560100 have changed my name to Siddiqui Zibreel Ahmad.

GENERAL

I, RITESH NAIR S/o. Sri. Sankaranarayanan Meleppatt, Resident at No. 302, 19/2, Shubhadam, Rustumji Villa Road, Beside Malabar Jwellery Road, Vinayaka Layout, Whitefield Main Road, Bengaluru-560 066 declare that my father wrongly entered in my documents as SANKARA NARAYANAN alias SANKARANARAYANAN M correct name is SANKARANARAYANAN MELEPPATT vide Affidavit Dt: 16/04/2026, sworn before Notary V Anjanappa, Bangalore.

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STUCK TO SCREENS NO MORE

Millennials and Gen Z resist Big Tech to restore focus, connection, and balance

More than a dozen millennials gathered in a brownstone apartment in Brooklyn and placed their phones in a metal colander before two hours of reading, drawing and conversation anything but staring at screens.

A similar scene played out a few miles away in an early 20th-century cardboard box factory turned high-end office space. Nearly 20 people in their 30s stared at their cell phones for a few minutes, then set them down and looked at their bared palms and then those of their neighbours. The exercise aimed to drive home the importance of paying attention to real life, not the gleaming little screens that have taken over the world.

A quiet rebellion against screens

Two decades after Steve Jobs unveiled the iPhone, a small but passionate movement with offshoots in several countries has begun pushing back against omnipresent screens.

"The products have become more insidious and more extractive, exploitative," said Dan Fox, 38, who hosted the Brooklyn gathering.

Members of the nascent movement "want to start a revolution," he said. But can an "attention activism" movement of millennials and Generation Z break free from the grip of the world's largest tech companies?

The raw numbers suggest otherwise. Still, cultural shifts often begin on the margins, and the backlash continues to grow against what some critics describe as "human fracking."

Apple Inc. and other Big Tech firms say they have introduced features to help users reduce screen time, including usage tracking tools and grayscale modes designed to make devices less visually appealing.

'Dumb phones' and deliberate disconnection

Activists argue those measures fall short.

"They want to take down Big Tech," said Fox, a stand-up comedian who works in marketing for Brooklyn-based Light Phone, a company that produces so-called "dumb phones" with minimal functionality.

Unlike most modern devices, these phones deliberately exclude features such as social media, clickbait news, email, internet browsers or "any other anxiety-inducing infinite feed."

Fox traced his own turning point to a 2015 Tame Impala concert at Radio City Music Hall. Instead of immersing themselves in the music, many in the audience recorded the performance on their phones.

"I realized the phones are literally getting in the way of the things I love," Fox said.

Mobile internet access has so thoroughly permeated daily life that one of the few places where it is not consistently available remains wartime Iran, where authorities have shut down connectivity during protests.

The rise of 'attention activism'

D. Graham Burnett, a historian of science at Princeton University, has emerged as a leading voice in what he calls the "attention liberation movement." His book, "Attensity! A Manifesto of the Attention Liberation Movement," and Chris Hayes' "The Sirens' Call: How Attention Became the World's Most Endangered Resource," reflect a growing body of work urging people to reclaim focus from digital platforms.

Burnett frames the issue in stark terms.

People "need to rewild their attention. Their attention is the fullness of their relationship to the world," he said.

At Fox's gathering, participants introduced themselves much like a support group.

"I don't feel good about my relationship with my phone. I feel like an addict," said Riley Soloner, who teaches theatrical clowning and works as an usher at Carnegie Hall. He arrived carrying a backpack full of printed books.

A global movement takes shape

Similar initiatives have surfaced worldwide. In the Netherlands, people recently gathered inside a neo-Gothic cathedral for an Offline Club meeting focused on creative activities such as reading, writing and puzzles.

"We create our events and gatherings with different themes," said co-founder Ilya Kneppelhout. "Really something that makes you slow down and reflect, go inward."

Dozens of such groups now operate across the United States and Canada, with others emerging in Spain, Italy, Croatia, France and England. Burnett expects the movement to expand further.

At Oberlin College in Ohio, students at the Harkness Housing and Dining Co-op experimented with a device-free environment. They first eliminated emails and spreadsheets, then extended the effort into a broader technology ban in shared spaces.

"People expressed a feeling of relief about not needing to be checking their emails, or checking their texts or checking the news," said junior Ozzie Frazier, 21.

Participants rediscober offline fun through music, games, crafts.

—AP

MIRRORLIGHTS

Alzheimer's amyloid drugs show no benefit, raise serious brain risks

Drugs designed to treat Alzheimer's disease by targeting amyloid proteins seen in high amounts in patients' brains have no clinically meaningful positive effects and increase risks of bleeding and swelling in the brain, a new review of previously published studies has found.

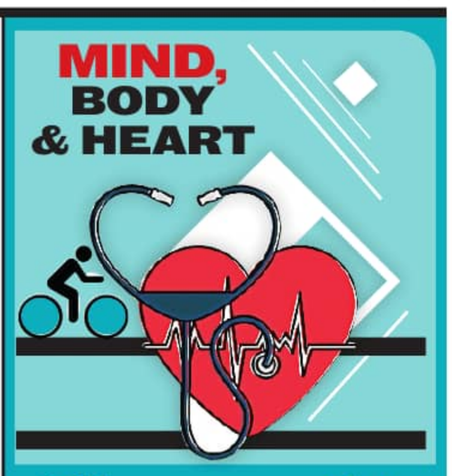
While brain scan studies have shown that patients with this neurodegenerative disease have clumps of amyloid beta proteins, the role of these proteins in advancing the condition remains unclear. Drugs have nevertheless been developed to remove them, based on the hypothesis that doing so would slow disease progression.

Researchers, including those from the IRCCS Institute of Neurological Sciences of Bologna, Italy, analysed data from 17 clinical trials involving over 20,300 participants with mild cognitive impairment or mild dementia due to Alzheimer's disease. Findings published in the Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews show that the absolute effects of anti-amyloid drugs on cognitive decline and dementia severity were absent or trivial, falling well below established thresholds for minimum clinically important difference.

"Successful removal of amyloid from the brain does not seem to be associated with clinically meaningful effects in people with mild cognitive impairment or mild dementia due to Alzheimer's disease," the authors wrote.

The researchers found that while the drugs successfully remove amyloid proteins from the brain, this does not translate into meaningful clinical benefit. "Amyloid-beta-targeting monoclonal antibodies increase the risk of amyloid-related imaging abnormalities," they said.

—PTI



All you need to know about...

Soothing sight

Dry eye syndrome occurs when your eyes either don't produce enough tears or the tears lack proper lubrication. This leads to discomfort, including a burning or stinging sensation, redness, blurred vision, light sensitivity, and stringy mucus around the eyes. Here are five simple ways to manage it.

Warm compress
Soak a clean cloth in warm water and place it over your closed eyes for five minutes. Gently rub over the eyelids to remove debris. This helps improve tear quality, reduces irritation, and soothes redness. Repeat until the cloth cools.

Coconut oil
Coconut oil works as a natural rewetting agent and prevents tear evaporation. Its anti-inflammatory properties ease irritation. Dip a cotton ball in coconut oil and place it on closed eyelids for 10–15 minutes. Repeat daily for relief.

Nutritional supplements
Omega-3 fatty acids help reduce eye inflammation and improve tear production. Include foods like salmon, sardines, flaxseed oil, and walnuts in your diet to ease dry eye symptoms over time.

Aloe vera gel
Aloe vera's moisturising and anti-inflammatory properties help soothe dry eyes. Extract fresh gel, apply gently on the outer eyelids, leave for 10 minutes, then rinse with lukewarm water. Use twice daily.

Rose water
Rose water refreshes tired eyes and may help with dryness. Apply soaked cotton pads over closed eyelids for 10 minutes, then rinse. You can also use pure rose water occasionally for quick soothing relief. —Femina

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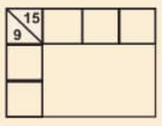
SOLVE IT IN A MINUTE

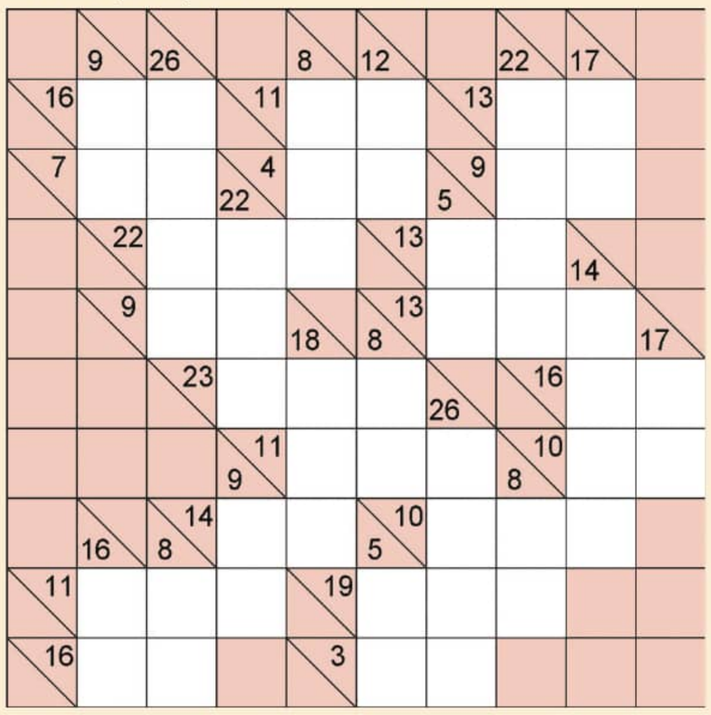
(-3) x (-6)^2 + (-4)-4 = ?

Kakuro

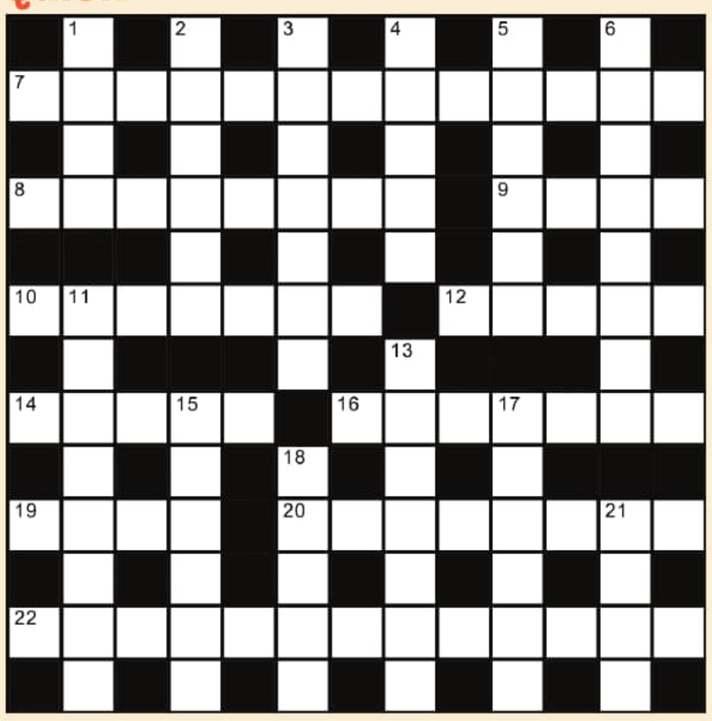
The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.



Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.



Quick



ACROSS

7 Our High Court is also known by this name (6,7)
8 Sporting venue in our country (8)
9 Reflecting optimism (4)
10 Spoken calumny (7)
12 Employing (5)
14 Should (5)
16 Solace (7)
19 George Orwell's Animal ___ (4)
20 Blood clot (8)
22 Not previously known or practised (13)

DOWN

1 An attempt (1,3)
2 Rely or depend upon (4,2)
3 Ruined or devastated (7)
4 Long stories (5)
5 Enchants (6)
6 Convict (8)
11 Famous Swiss city (8)
13 Bans (7)
15 Spanish man (6)
17 Serious offence (6)
18 Park seat (5)
21 Observed (4)

Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Today's CLUE: Y EQUALS R

OFSP ENG ZF PYYFYG, QFY NOO PYYFYG NYP KEP TNZK QFY OFSP.

Linemaro

I never had a dream come true until the day I met you

Mindchow

You can't cross the sea by merely standing and staring at the water

Joke of the day

If written directions alone would suffice, libraries wouldn't need the rest of the universities attached

Loop

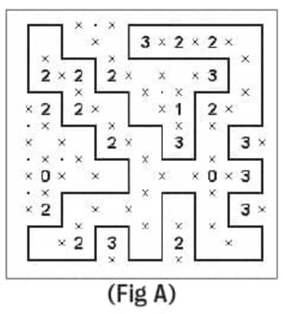
Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.

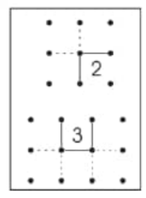
How to begin:

Example (Fig A) – Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

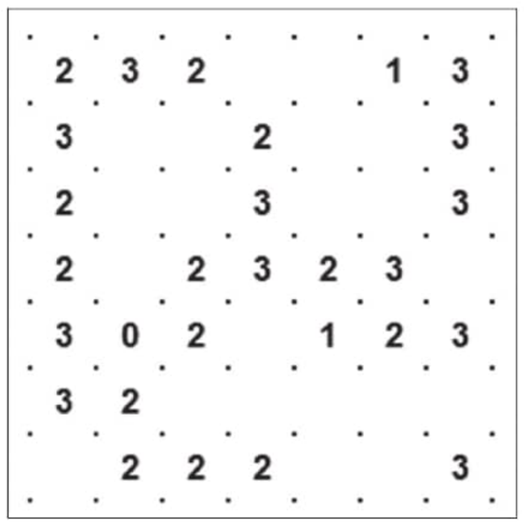
Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)



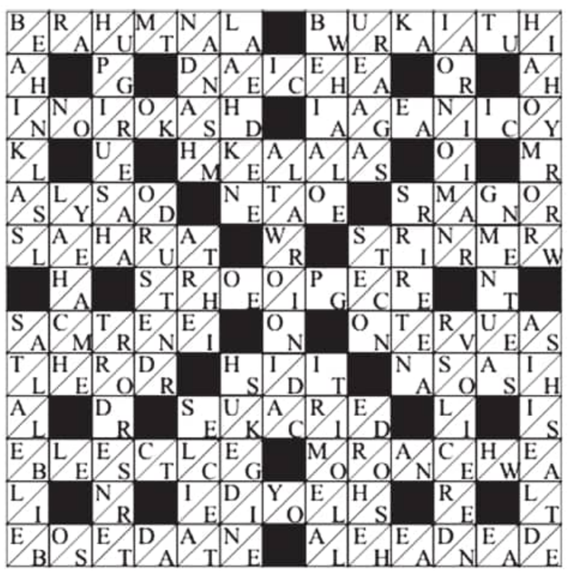
(Fig A)



(Fig B) Not Allowed



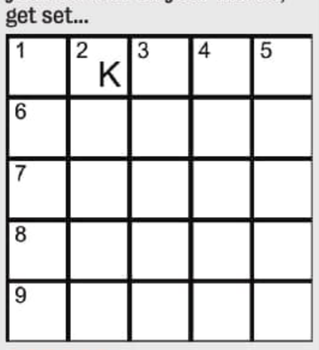
Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...



ACROSS

1 Kelps; 6 XI Pie;
7 Medea; 8 Pad at;
9 Taros

DOWN

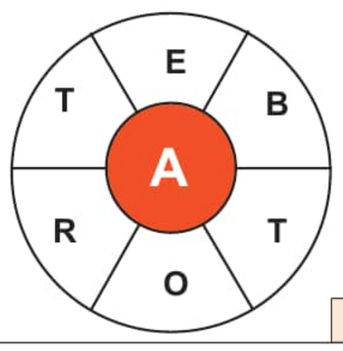
1 Pears; 2 Do kid;
3 Tee ax; 4 A limp;
5 Tapes

Mensapuzzle

Enter the missing number to complete this grid.

5	21	2
4	20	6
8	55	

Bull's eye



How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

16 Average; **18** Good; **20** Outstanding

SudokuChallenge

		5		9		3		
		2	5		7	9		
	8			6			1	
7		8				4		5
4	9						7	8
5		6				1		3
	4			5			2	
		3	9		4	7		
		9		1		6		

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Gofigure

Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.

Easy = 20

3 9 7 7

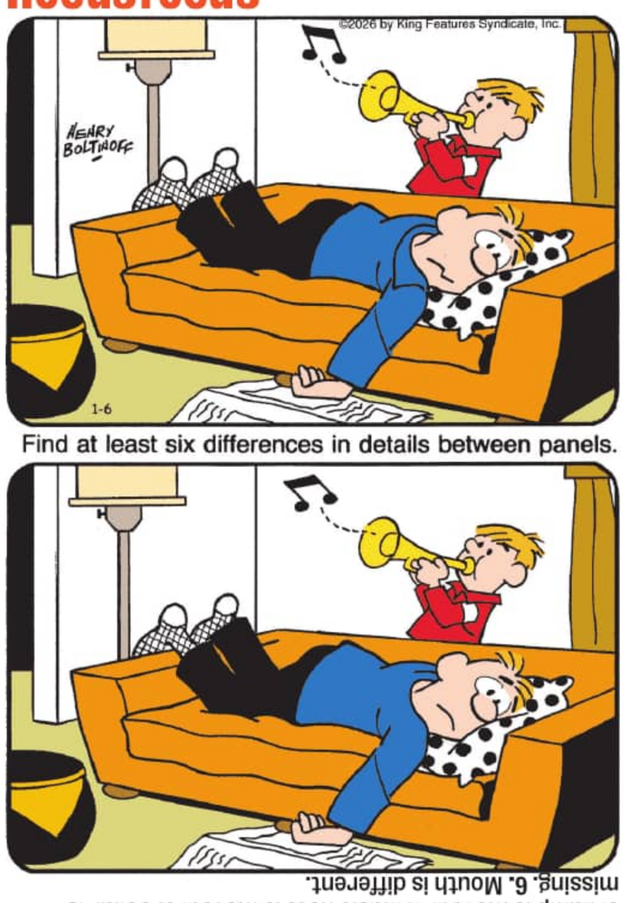
Medium = 8

5 7 9 5

Hard = 2

3 4 7 8

Hocusfocus



Find at least six differences in details between panels.

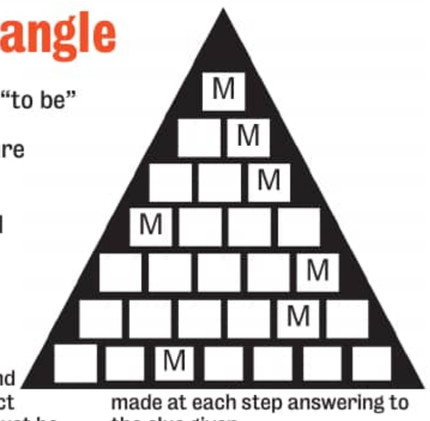
Differences: 1. Pant leg is longer. 2. Shirt is longer. 3. Lamp is moved. 4. Music note is moved. 5. Collar is missing. 6. Mouth is different.

Riddler

My first wears my second; my third might be
What my first would acquire if he went to the sea.
Put together my one, two, three And the belle of New York is the girl for me.

Alpha triangle

1 Meter, abbr.
2 Part of the verb "to be"
3 _ it up, overact
4 Jet speed measure
5 Attractiveness
6 Intensity of hue
7 Solid essential oil



Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be made at each step answering to the clue given.

DIFFICULT TO SOLVE? FIND THESE SOLUTIONS ON THE NEXT PAGE

COMICS

Popeye

I YAM DISGUSTIPATED WIT' YA FER TRYIN' TO CON A SWAB INTO BUYIN' ME SHIP!
ME PARTNER AN' ME IS IN THE SELLIN' BUSINESS!
I CAME OUT TO SEE MY SHIP!
I CAME OUT TO SEE MY SHIP!
I CAME OUT TO SEE MY SHIP!
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popeye.com
7-17

Bizarrotrip

Internal Audit says someone is fudging their numbers.
Wayno & Piraro 1.6.26
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Diamond Lil

SO YOU REALLY JOINED THE LIARS' CLUB?
YUP. THE LOCAL MEN'S CHAPTER
WE MEET THE THIRD TUESDAY OF EVERY MONTH
WHAT DO YOU DO AT THE MEETINGS?
TALK ABOUT FISHING, WOMEN AND GOLF
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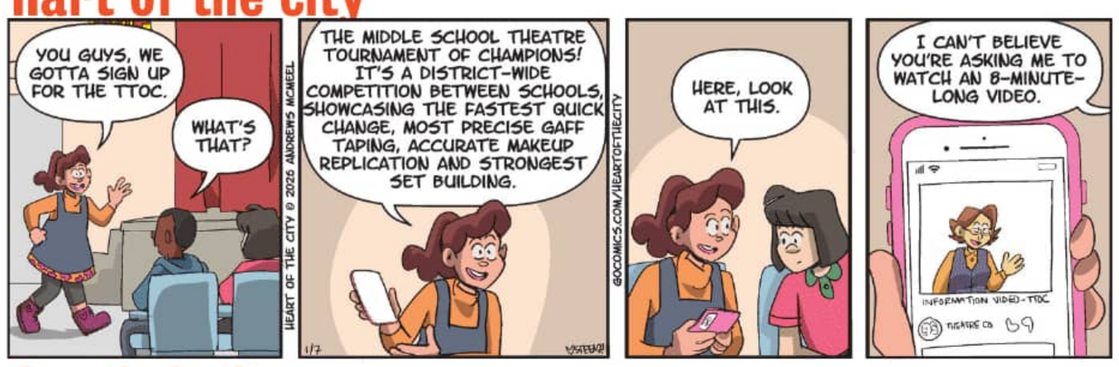
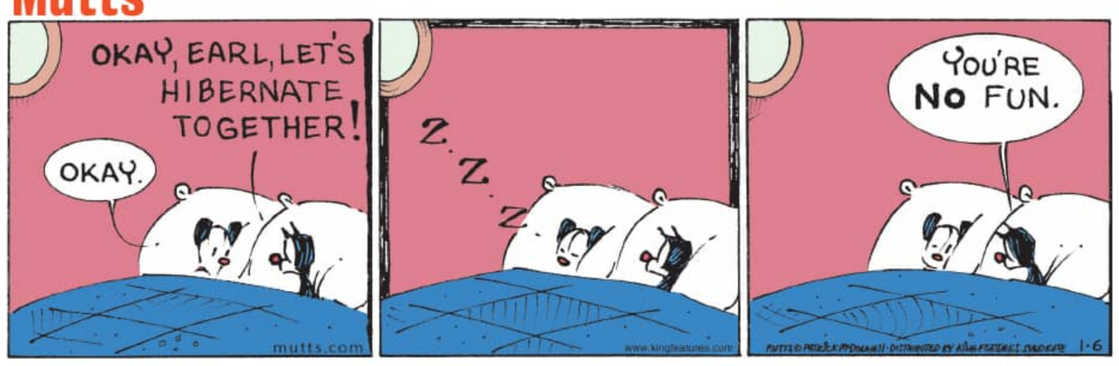
Hart of the city


YOU GUYS, WE GOTTA SIGN UP FOR THE TTOC.
WHAT'S THAT?
THE MIDDLE SCHOOL THEATRE TOURNAMENT OF CHAMPIONS! IT'S A DISTRICT-WIDE COMPETITION BETWEEN SCHOOLS, SHOWCASING THE FASTEST QUICK CHANGE, MOST PRECISE GAFF TAPING, ACCURATE MAKEUP REPLICATION AND STRONGEST SET BUILDING.
HEART OF THE CITY © 2026 ANDREWS MCMEEL
1/7
HERE, LOOK AT THIS.
@GOCOMICS.COM/HEARTOFTHECITY
I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU'RE ASKING ME TO WATCH AN 8-MINUTE-LONG VIDEO.
INFORMATION VIDEO - TTOC

Crankshaft

SO YOU HAVE AN APP ON YOUR PHONE THAT CHIRPS EVERY TIME A BIRD LANDS AT YOUR BIRD FEEDER?
CHIRP! CHIRP!
CHIRP! CHIRP!
© 2026 Mediagraphics, Inc. Dist. by Andrews McMeel Syndication
YEP...
1-6
ALTHOUGH IT IS STARTING TO GET A LITTLE ANNOYING.
CHIRP! CHIRP! CHIRP! CHIRP! CHIRP! CHIRP! CHIRP! CHIRP! CHIRP! CHIRP!
BATIUK & DAVIS tombatiuk.com/books

Mutts



WRITTEN IN THE STARS

DR SUNDEEP KOCHAR

If it's your birthday today

Your birthday opens a promising year of exploration, creativity, and steady progress. Travel opportunities may appear through career projects or learning adventures. Love feels passionate, supportive, and delightfully surprising. Finances grow stronger through thoughtful discipline. Home life offers comfort, laughter, and shared inspiration. Celebrate today, then step boldly toward the possibilities, friendships, and journeys waiting beyond familiar horizons this year.

Aries Mar 21 – Apr 20

Stay focused on your intentions today, Aries, especially while collaborating with others. Calculated risks in business may prove successful, but communicate clearly to avoid misunderstandings about your plans.

Taurus Apr 21 – May 20

Your intuition feels especially strong today, Taurus. While this confidence helps you navigate situations, avoid imposing your thoughts on others. Meditation can help calm your mind and restore balance.

Gemini May 21 – Jun 21

Clear communication is essential today, Gemini. If you have an important meeting planned, confirm the details beforehand. A simple reminder could prevent confusion or unexpected delays.

Cancer Jun 22 – July 23

Luck appears to favour you today, Cancer. Opportunities may align naturally, helping your plans progress smoothly. Enjoy this fortunate moment while remaining humble and grounded.

Leo Jul 24 – Aug 23

New friendships may enter your life today, Leo. Shared interests and compatibility could encourage meaningful connections. Consider planning activities together to strengthen these bonds.

Virgo Aug 24 – Sep 23

Trust your instincts today, Virgo. If something feels suspicious, investigate personally rather than ignoring your intuition. Your judgment is likely accurate and will guide you correctly.

Libra Sep 24 – Oct 22

Financial prospects appear promising today, Libra. Positive news about money could arrive. Invest wisely and avoid unnecessary spending so future gains remain secure.

Scorpio Oct 23 – Nov 22

Follow your heart today, Scorpio. If you feel strongly about pursuing something, trust your instincts rather than listening to discouraging opinions from others.

Sagittarius Nov 23 – Dec 22

Positive changes may unfold today, Sagittarius. Workplace improvements or conflict resolution could bring relief. Accept these changes with optimism as they support your progress.

Capricorn Dec 23 – Jan 20

Your dedication to work becomes noticeable today, Capricorn. Friends may encourage you to take a break and socialize. Enjoying time away from work could refresh your outlook.

Aquarius Jan 21 – Feb 19

Release the past today, Aquarius. Dwelling on old mistakes limits your progress. Embrace the future confidently and appreciate the lessons your experiences have given you.

Pisces Feb 20 – Mar 20

Don't hesitate to show your talents today, Pisces. Confidence in your abilities can open new doors. Embrace recognition even if attention feels unfamiliar.

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SOLUTIONS

SOLVE IN 1M

=-3*(36-8)
=-3*(28)
=-84

QUOTE UNCODE

Love has no errors, for all errors are the want for love.

FAST FIVE

S	K	E	L	P
P	I	X	I	E
A	D	A	P	T
E	D	E	M	A
R	O	T	A	S

RIDDLER

Manhattan. A MAN wears a HAT, and a MAN might acquire a TAN if he went to sea.

STRIKE OUT

B	R	U	T	A	L	■	W	R	A	I	T	H	■	■
A	■	P	■	D	A	C	H	A	■	O	■	A	■	■
I	N	R	O	A	D	■	A	G	E	N	C	Y	■	■
K	■	U	■	M	E	A	L	S	■	I	■	M	■	■
A	L	S	O	■	N	A	■	E	■	S	A	G	O	■
L	E	H	U	■	A	■	R	■	S	I	N	E	W	■
■	A	■	T	R	O	O	■	P	E	R	■	N	■	■
S	C	R	E	■	N	■	N	E	V	U	S	■	■	■
T	H	O	R	■	S	I	T	■	N	O	S	H	■	■
A	■	D	■	S	U	C	R	E	■	I	■	I	■	■
B	E	E	T	L	E	■	O	R	A	C	H	E	■	■
L	■	N	■	I	D	O	L	S	■	E	■	L	■	■
E	S	T	A	T	E	■	L	E	A	D	E	D	■	■

QUICK

A	T	T	A	R	A	K	A	C	H	E	R	I	■	■
G	Y	M	K	H	A	N	A	■	R	O	S	Y	■	■
■	R	■	N	■	V	■	G	■	A	■	I	■	■	■
■	A	B	■	R	■	S	■	C	■	H	E	R	I	■
■	■	■	O	■	S	■	M	■	R	O	■	O	■	■
S	L	A	N	D	E	R	■	U	S	I	N	G	■	■
■	■	■	■	D	■	F	■	■	■	■	E	■	■	■
O	U	G	H	T	■	C	O	M	F	O	R	T	■	■
■	A	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
F	A	R	M	■	E	M	B	O	L	I	S	M	■	■
■	S	■	O	■	B	■	R	■	E	■	■	■	■	■
■	N	■	B	■	N	■	I	■	O	■	■	E	■	■
U	N	P	R	E	C	E	D	E	N	T	E	D	■	■
E	■	E	■	H	■	S	■	Y	■	N	■	■	■	■

MENSA PUZZLE

abet, ABETTOR, abort, bare, bate, batter, bear, beat, beta, boar, boat, boater, brat, orate, rate, rotate, tarot, tart, tear, treat

BULL'S EYE

3. Working in rows the central figure equals the difference in the squares of the left and right hand numbers.

SUDOKU

6	7	5	8	9	1	3	4	2
3	1	2	5	4	7	9	8	6
9	8	4	2	6	3	5	1	7
7	3	8	1	2	9	4	6	5
4	9	1	6	3	5	2	7	8
5	2	6	4	7	8	1	9	3
1	4	7	3	5	6	8	2	9
2	6	3	9	8	4	7	5	1
8	5	9	7	1	2	6	3	4

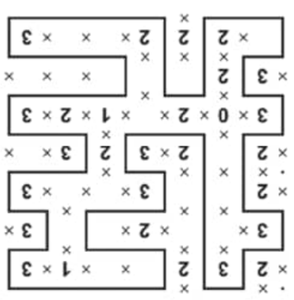
ALPHA TRIANGLE

M, Am, Ham, Mach, Charm, Chroma, Camphor.

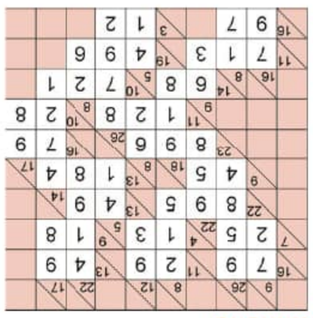
GO FIGURE

8 - 3 - 7 + 4 = 2
Hard
5 + 7 - 9 + 5 = 8
Medium
9 - 3 + 7 + 7 = 20
Easy

LOOP



KAKURO



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